

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 14696 121003Z

13

ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT APPOINTS ARBITRATION COMMITTEE TO SETTLE DUSIT
THANI HOTEL STRIKE

REF: A. BANGKOK 14626; B. BANGKOK 13465; C. BANGKOK 10128

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ENGLISH LANGUAGE MORNING PRESS SEPT-
EMBER 12 CARRIED SIMILAR, FACTUAL REPORTS ON APPOINTMENT BY
MINISTER OF INTERIOR OF 15-MEMBER ARBITRATION COMMITTEE TO
SETTLE DUSIT HOTEL STRIKE. COMMITTEE MUST SUBMIT A DECISION
IN THREE DAYS. CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE WILL BE DEPUTY UNDER
SECRETARY OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, DAMRI NOIMANI.
LATTER SUFFERED EMBARRASSMENT IN PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO BRING
ABOUT STRIKE SETTLEMENT WHEN HOTEL MANAGEMENT FAILED TO
SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO ONE MEETING HE CALLED AND BOTH DIS-
PUTANTS REMAINED AWAY FROM ANOTHER.

2. ALSO ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, MANAGEMENT AND LABOR
WILL BE GIVEN THREE DAYS IN WHICH TO COMPLY WITH COMMITTEE'S
VERDICT. REFUSAL TO COMPLY WILL SUBJECT THEM TO FINES AND
IMPRISONMENT. "BANGKOK POST" PUBLISHED PICTURE OF WORKERS
FROM OTHER HOTELS LAYING BLACK WREATHS IN FRONT OF DUSIT
THANI ON SEPTEMBER 11 AS DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR
STRIKERS. PRESIDENT OF HOTEL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION IS
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 14696 121003Z

REPORTED AS URING ITS 53 MEMBERS TO TRY TO REACH AGREE-

MENTS WITH WORKERS ON BASIS OF COMPROMISE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS IN APPOINTING ARBITRATION COMMITTEE, IN PARTICULAR ESCALATION OF GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL, INDICATES SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH IT REGARDED POTENTIAL OF STRIKE FOR SPREADING LABOR DISRUPTION IF CONFLICT PERMITTED TO CONTINUE. AT A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ON AUGUST 28, SANYA WAS TOLD THAT THE ASSEMBLY VIEWS THE RECENT WAVE OF STRIKES WITH GRAVE CONCERN. THESE LEADING PARLIAMENTARIANS URGED SANYA TO TAKE A MORE AGGRESSIVE LINE AGAINST AGGITATORS. ANOTHER PROBABLE PRESSURE FOR ACTION IS PAST CRITICISM FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY OVER GOVERNMENT'S ALLEGED "HANDS OFF" ATTITUDE DURING STRIKE AT SIAM INTERCONTINENTAL (REF B).

4. APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATION COMMITTEE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO END DUSIT THANI STRIKE, IN WHICH EVENT SANYA GOVERNMENT'S PRESTIGE SHOULD GO UP SEVERAL NOTCHES AS IT DID FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES IN LABOR LAW (REFTEL C). KINTNER

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